FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

5921

FBI

Date: 8/6/73

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P*)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Charles Quitman Ste

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies each of three FD-302s reflecting interviews with CHARLES Q. STEPHENS at Memphis, Tennessee, on 4/5/68, on 4/5/68, and on 4/24/68. Also enclosed are two copies of a sworn affidavit given by STEPHENS during June, 1968.

Mr. HARVEY GIPSON, an attorney at Memphis, Tennessee, has contacted the Memphis Office and has advised that he is representing CHARLES Q. STEPHENS, who is attempting to collect approximately $100,000 in reward monies which were offered by local newspapers and by others at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed.

GIPSON stated he has filed a civil suit in the Shelby County Chancery Court at Memphis. He indicated he has obtained copies of statements furnished to the State Attorney General's Office and he indicated he is aware that there are several signed statements furnished by STEPHENS to the FBI during this investigation. Mr. GIPSON stated he hopes the FBI will turn these statements over to him voluntarily, but indicated he will seek them through court action if neccessary.

No admission was made to GIPSON as to whether or not STEPHENS had furnished any signed statements to the FBI. A review of the Memphis file does not indicate that STEPHENS has ever furnished a signed statement to the FBI, and the only signed document which can be located is the enclosed affidavit. The Bureau will note that a copy of this affidavit was previously furnished to the Bureau by Memphis airtel dated 6/13/68. It is

② - Bureau (Enc. 8) ENCLOSURE
1 - Memphis

JCH:plc
(3)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

44-38861-54

REC-8

EX-112

17 AUG 8 1973

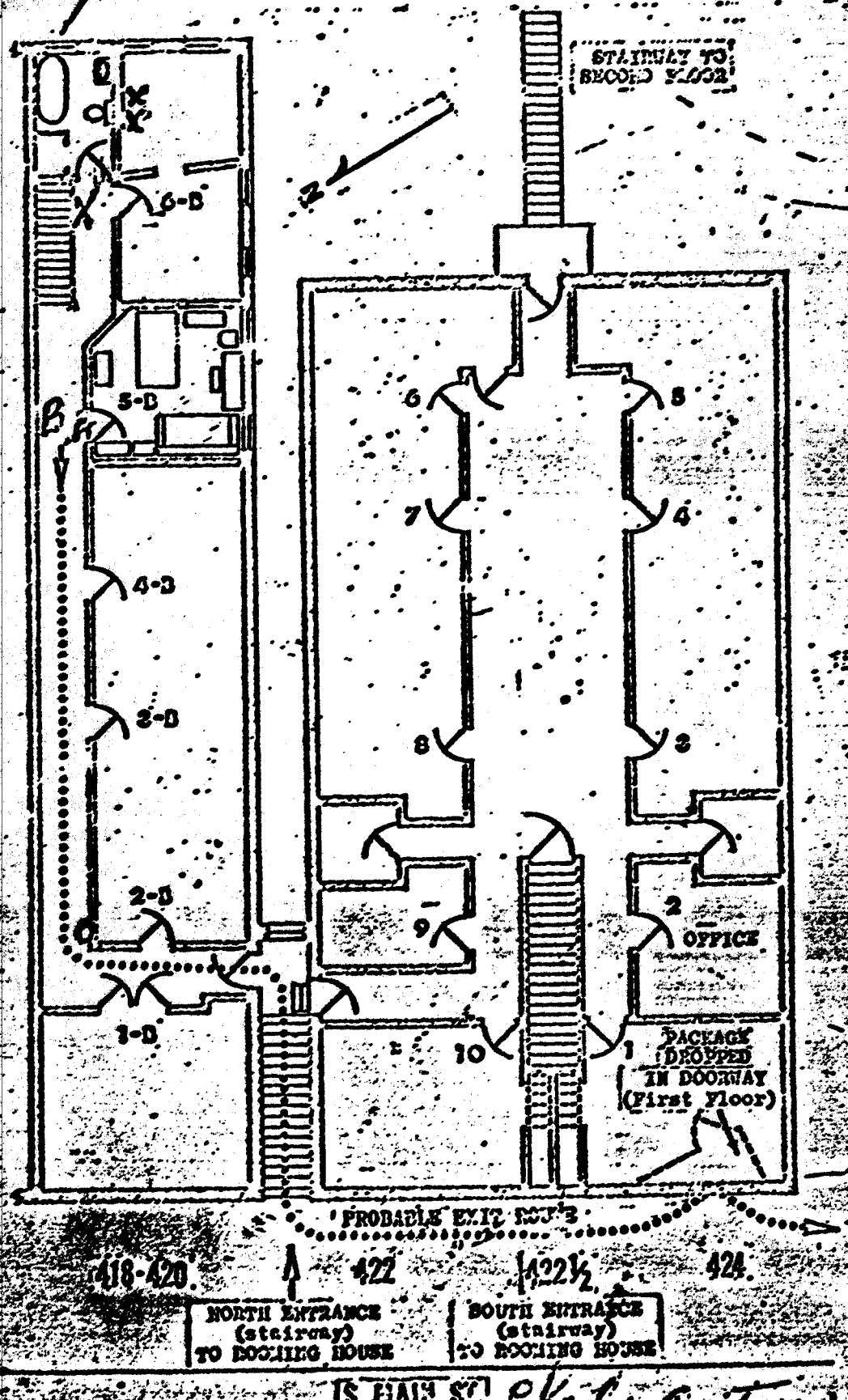
Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-876

believed that this affidavit was furnished to a departmental attorney and it may have been used in connection with the extradition of JAMES EARL RAY from England.

It is suggested that the Bureau discuss with the Department what action is desired regarding GIPSON's request for information appearing in FBI files. It is strongly recommended that we decline to furnish GIPSON any information, as it is believed that any cooperation on our part will encourage GIPSON to seek more and more information to substantiate his client's claim. It is also felt that the information furnished by STEPHENS was not of sufficient importance to justify any reward.

Memphis Office is having no further contact with GIPSON UACB.


BATHROOM WINDOW FROM WHICH SHOT WAS FIRED
of ROOMING HOUSE
STAIRWAY TO SECOND FLOOR
6-B
5-B
4-B
2-B
2-B
1-B
6
8
7
4
3
2
9
10
1
2
OFFICE
PACKAGE DROPPED IN DOORWAY (First Floor)
PROBABLE EXIT ROUTE
418-420
422
422½
424
NORTH ENTRANCE (stairway) TO ROOMING HOUSE
SOUTH ENTRANCE (stairway) TO ROOMING HOUSE
S. MAIN ST.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TENNESSEE }
COUNTY OF SHELBY } ss:

I, Charles Quitman Stephens, being duly sworn, deposes and say:

1. I am 48 years old and right now I have no fixed address. From March of 1967 until June of 1968, I lived at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. On April 4, 1968, my common-law wife and I were living there in Apartment 6-B. The floor plan attached hereto and marked Exhibit I, the original of which I have signed, is a good likeness of the relationship of the rooms on the second floor, which was my floor.

2. Mrs. Bessie Brewer was the resident manager of the rooming house. At about 4:00 p.m., or a little later, on April 4, 1968, I thought I heard Mrs. Brewer's voice in the hall and I went out of my apartment to speak to her about the hot-water heater I had been working on. From the banister of the back stairs near my apartment door I saw her and a man standing in the hallway near the entrance to Room 5-B, which is just down the hall from my bedroom. I did not recognize the man with Mrs. Brewer and I assumed he was a new guest looking at the room. The man was looking into the room near the doorway and I got a glimpse at him from his left side. I have marked on the diagram the letter "A" where the man was standing, the letter "B" where Mrs. Brewer was standing, and the letter "X" where I was standing.

3. On April 24, 1968, I looked at FBI Wanted Flyer #2-1, and I identified the profile photograph on the left as looking very much like the man I saw looking at Room 5-B on the afternoon of April 4, 1968. A duplicate of this Wanted

flyer, which I have signed, is attached and identified as Exhibit II. I now re-examine the photograph and reaffirm that identification. I also now examine another profile photograph, which appears to be a smaller copy of the one in the flyer, and affirm that it looks very much like the man I saw looking at Room 5-3 on the afternoon of April 4, 1968. This photograph is attached and identified as Exhibit III, and I have signed it. The pointed nose and chin are the principal features that stand out in my identification of the man pictured in Exhibit III as the man I saw with Rev. Brewer looking into Room 5-3 on April 4, 1968.

4. My wife and I spent the rest of the afternoon in our apartment. I am a disabled war veteran who has been treated for tuberculosis and spent most of my time in my bedroom. My wife was also ill and was at that time a bed patient.

5. After seeing the strange man with Rev. Brewer, I heard sounds in Room 5-3 and assumed the man I had seen had rented the room next door. Several times that afternoon I heard footsteps in Room 5-3, and two or three times I heard footsteps leaving Room 5-3 and going past my room and into the common bathroom at the end of the hall. The first couple of times the person from 5-3 went to the bath he did not stay out a few minutes and once I heard the toilet flush. Each time I heard footsteps going back to Room 5-3. About the third time I heard footsteps from Room 5-3 to the bathroom the person stayed what seemed like a long time. It seemed like a long time because while he was in there I wanted to use the toilet.

6. While this person was in there so long, Rev. Willie Ricketts, who lived in Room 4-3, knocked on my door and asked who the hell was staying in the bathroom so long. I opened my door and told him I didn't know, and he went back to his room.

7. Toward the end of the afternoon, sometime between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., I was in my kitchen working on a small radio when I heard a shot. I have placed a circled "X" mark on the floor plan, Exhibit 1, to show where I was when I heard the shot. I could tell that it came from the bathroom because it was very loud and the partition between my kitchen and the bathroom is thin plyboard.

8. I had not heard footsteps going back to Room 6-3 between the time the person went in for so long and the time I heard the shot.

9. Right after the shot, I heard through a broken pane in my kitchen window a lot of voices yelling and hollering across the street from my building near the Lorraine Hotel. I looked out my window toward the noise and I saw a lot of people milling around near the motel. Then I went to my door and opened it. I would say that about a minute, not more, passed between my hearing the shot and when I opened the door. First, I looked toward the bathroom and I saw that the door was open and it was empty. Then I went to the hallway and looked the other way. When I did, I saw a man running near the end of the hallway. I have put an "O" mark on the floor plan, Exhibit 1, to show about where he was when I saw him. He was carrying a bundle in his right hand. From what I could see, the bundle was at least three or four feet long and six or eight inches thick. The bundle appeared to be wrapped in what looked like newspaper. The man turned left toward the stairs when he reached the end of the hallway. Although I did not get a long look at him before he turned left, I think it was the same man I saw earlier with Ted. Upon looking at Room 5-5, the man corresponding down the hall had on a dark suit, the same as the man I saw earlier.

13. Then I went back to my kitchen window. This time I saw a lot of people and policemen at the Lorraine Motel. A policeman near the embankment behind my building yelled at me to get away from the window, so I sat down in my bedroom.

_____
Charles Quitman Stephens

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this _____ day of June, 1968

_____
W. Lloyd Clancy,
Clerk, United States
District Court for the
Western District of Tennessee,
U. S. A.

I hereby certify that this and the attached three pages and the attached documents identified as Exhibits I, II, and III comprise the original affidavit of Charles Quitman Stephens executed, sworn to, and subscribed before me this _____ day of June, 1968.

_____
W. Lloyd Clancy

FD-302 (Rev. 6-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/7/68

CHARLES STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, advised that on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he was with his wife at the above address. He stated that at about 3:30 p.m., on the above date, he began working on a table model radio of his which was in need of repair. He said he took a radio to the kitchen and placed it on the table which was against the wall that was adjacent to the bathroom which was used by all tenants on his floor. As he was working on his radio he could hear the man in the next apartment to him, Apartment 5B, leave his room several times and go into the bathroom. Mr. STEPHENS stated that he knew it was the man who had just checked in to Apartment 5B that afternoon because he could hear the door of Apartment 5B open and then footsteps would go down the hall to the bathroom, the bathroom door would open and then close.

Mr. STEPHENS said that during these various trips that the individual in Apartment 5B made to the bathroom he failed to flush the toilet or to run any water with the exception of the last time he was in the bathroom. At this time he flushed the toilet. He stated that this individual seemed to be spending an undue length of time in this bathroom. At about 6:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968, Mr. STEPHENS heard a loud noise which he described as sounding like a gunshot come from the bathroom. Upon hearing this noise, Mr. STEPHENS ran from the kitchen where he was repairing his radio to his door that led to the hallway. He stated this is only a distance of about 10 to 12 feet. Upon opening the door he saw a man leave the bathroom carrying a package of about three feet long and wrapped in what appeared to be newspaper. He saw the man run down the hall and then turn left as if he were trying to leave the apartment building. As this was happening WILLIE ANSCHUTZ, who lived in Apartment 4B, came out of his apartment and went to the bathroom. ANSCHUTZ then told STEPHENS to look out of his window. STEPHENS said that he then looked out of his kitchen window which faced the Lorraine Hotel and saw a lot of policemen scurrying about and people running screaming in the vicinity of the hotel.

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-

SA [redacted]

by SA [redacted] JWB:raj Date dictated 4/5/68

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Mr. STEPHENS stated that the man who was in Apartment 5B had checked in about 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He stated he was sure of this because he had heard the landlady showing him the apartment at that time. He stated he glanced out of his door and got a fairly good look at the man who he described as being a white male; 5' 10-11"; weighing 165 pounds; slender build; ruddy complexion; sandy hair; had a long, sharp pointed nose; wearing what appeared to be a dark blue or black suit, white shirt and dark tie.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that the man who he saw running out of the bathroom closely resembled the man who had checked into Apartment 5B. He said he could only see the man who ran from the bathroom from behind, but his general build, hair coloring and clothes were the same as the individual in Apartment 5B.

Mr. STEPHENS described the individual he saw running out of the bathroom as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'10-11"
Weight	165
Build	Slender
Complexion	Ruddy
Hair	Sandy, slightly on dark side
Clothing	Wearing dark suit

Mr. STEPHENS added that he had never met the man who checked into Apartment 5B, talked to him, or knew his name.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/10/68

1

Mr. CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, Room 6-B, second floor, 422½ S. Main Street, furnished the following information to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

Mr. STEPHENS, who stated he is 46 years of age, and his wife occupy 2 rooms in the north wing of a rooming house, the address of which is 422½ S. Main Street. This rooming house actually covers the second floor of 2 separate buildings, Mr. STEPHENS' room being located in the north building in the southeast corner of the north building.

Sometime in the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, he and his wife were in their room. His wife, who has recently been in the hospital for an extended period of time, was in bed in their combination of living-bedroom. He was in the kitchen, which is east of the living-bedroom. He was repairing a radio on a table located at the north wall of the kitchen. Immediately north of him is a common bathroom which is located at the east end of an east-west hallway in the north building. While he was repairing the radio, he heard what he is certain was a shot, and he is certain that shot came from the bathroom from a point within just a few feet of where he was sitting. He has no way of knowing the time but can only estimate it was sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 PM.

Upon hearing this shot, he walked out of the kitchen through his living-bedroom and opened the door leading onto the hallway and observed a man running west down this hallway and this man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. He would estimate that this bundle or package was at least 3 or 4 feet long and 6 to 8 inches thick. Although he saw the man and the bundle only momentarily, he gained the impression that the bundle was wrapped in something, possibly a newspaper. This man continued running to the end of the hallway turning left (south) and apparently thereafter ran down the stairways onto the street, although he could not actually see the man going down the stairway.

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub D-2

by SA [redacted] /bbs Date dictated 4/9/68

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It immediately occurred to Mr. STEPHENS that this was the same man he had seen earlier in the afternoon, possibly around mid-afternoon, standing at the door to room 5-B which is located immediately west of Mr. STEPHENS's living-bedroom. He stated that around mid-afternoon he had seen a man with Mrs. BREWER standing in the hallway at the entrance to room 5-B looking into room 5-B. He saw the man's left side. The man had nothing in his hands at the time. He assumed this was some new guest looking at a room.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that he and his wife remained in their room the rest of the afternoon. He pointed out that he, Mr. STEPHENS, is a disabled veteran who has been treated for tuberculosis, and he spends most of his time in his rooms with his wife who is also ill and who at present is a bed patient.

Sometime after seeing thisman with Mrs. BREWER, he heard someone in room 5-B and assumed the man hehad seen had rented the room next door. He stated that he recalls on several different occasions hearing footsteps in this room and also leaving from this room past his (Mr. STEPHENS's) room and into the common bathroom at the east end of the hall. He was also very much aware that when the person went from room 5-B to the bathroom, that person remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time. He pointed out that this is particularly noticeable since this is a common bathroom which must be used by a number of different tenants. He also specifically recalled that only on one occasion did he hear the commode being flushed and he was therefore curious as to why this person was spending so much time in the bathroom.

He stated that on the last occasion that someone went from number 5-B to the bathroom prior to the time he heard the shot, he would estimate that that person remained in the bathroom for at least 20 to 30 minutes. During this period he heard no noises coming from the bathroom. He also specifically recalls that during this same period, Mr. WILLIS ANCHUTZ (phonetic), who occupies room 4-B, immediately west of 5-B where the new tenant apparently was located,

had knocked on Mr. STEPHENS's door and somewhat angrily inquired as to who was staying in the bathroom so long.

It was at the end of this latter period of time that Mr. STEPHENS heard the above described shot which he was certain came from the bathroom. He stated that immediately after the shot was fired he heard some people located across the street, east of the building where he lives, screaming. Due to the excitement of the moment, the fact that people across the street in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel were screaming, and the fact that his hearing is not the best, he did not hear any additional noises coming from the bathroom. He pointed out that he would expect to hear a "scuffle" coming from the bathroom if the man in the bathroom had fired the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, but he cannot recall hearing such a "scuffle." He stated that he simply has no way of knowing whether the man came out of the bathroom, went into room 5-B and then ran out of 5-B down the hall toward the front of the building, or whether the man in the bathroom ran directly from the bathroom down the hallway toward the front of the building. He stated he did hesitate a few moments after hearing the shot and hearing the screaming outside before he went to the door and looked down the hall to see the man running carrying something in his hand.

Mr. STEPHENS advised that the only people in the north building of this rooming house at the time of this incident were (1) Mr. STEPHENS, (2) Mr. STEPHENS's wife, who was in bed and who was never in a position to observe anything, (3) Mr. WILLIS ANCHUTZ (phonetic), above, in room 4-B, who came out of his room and was seen by Mr. STEPHENS at the same time Mr. STEPHENS saw the man running down the hall, (4) Mrs. JESSIE LEDBETTER, a deaf and dumb lady who resides in room 1-B toward the front (west) of the north wing or north building, and (5) the unknown man who had occupied room 5-B who was running down the hall as previously stated.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that Mr. ANCHULZ made some [illegible] to the unknown man who was running down the hallway and the unknown man apparently made some kind of reply.

Mr. STEPHENS advised that whereas he could hear footsteps in 5-B and could hear footsteps between 5-B and the bathroom, he at no time heard any conversation in 5-B, and he is certain that there was no conversation in 5-B from the time the new tenant checked in until the time he heard the shot. He stated he never heard any noise or footsteps which would indicate to him there was ever more than one person in room 5-B. He pointed out that whereas his hearing is not too good, it is very easy to hear noises in the adjoining rooms of this rooming house and he definitely can hear normal conversation coming from that room. Mr. STEPHENS stated that when he saw the new tenant with Mrs. BREWER standing in front of 5-B, he only saw the left side of the new tenant, and when he saw what he believes to be the same man running down the hallway carrying something, he only saw this person from the rear. He pointed out he never saw him directly in front, but based upon his observations he would describe this person as follows:

Name:	Unknown
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	"in his 30's."
Height:	5' 10-11"
Weight:	165 pounds
Build:	Average
Posture:	Man stood erectly
Hair:	Described as sandy, also described as "dark blond" or having the appearance of unwashed sand. Further described hairline as receding on left side (and presumably on both sides) making it appear he would have "peaks" on either side but with full thick hair toward the front center of his head between the peaks. Hair combed straight back. Normal or average haircut.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. STEPHENS said the 1955 and 1960 photographs of RAY were not familiar to him, but he advised the 1966 profile photograph of RAY appearing in Wanted Flyer 442-A, April 19, 1968, and Identification Order 4182 dated April 20, 1968, looked like the man he saw in Apartment 5B on April 4, 1968, talking to Mrs. BESSIE BREWER. STEPHENS said he only saw the man's profile in the boarding house and as a result could only say the profile photograph of RAY in 1966 looked very much like the above mentioned man in Room 5B.

STEPHENS said he had never seen the bedspread or any similar bedspread either at the rooming house or anywhere else.

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 4/25/68

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AIRTEL

8/9/73

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

1 - Mr. McDonough

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

EX-112 REC 8 5921

MURKIN

Reurairtel 8/6/73.

SuLHM suitable for dissemination.

Include statement therein that if Mr. Gipson makes any further inquiries relating to this matter, he will be advised that any inquiries should be directed to the Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

MAILED 22
AUG 09 1973
FBI

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F35

AUG 9 1973

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